

The Story of the King and the Villager

Islamic Stories - Volume 62

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Chapter 1: The Sovereign and the Suppliant

A Chance Encounter in the Wilderness

While hunting one day, a king ventured far from his royal entourage. Amidst the solitude of the countryside, he encountered a simple villager. The man received the king with honour and hospitality, treating him with respect and kindness befitting his status.

A Royal Invitation:

Grateful for the villager's courteous conduct, the king made an offer of lasting generosity.

King:

"I am the king. If ever you find yourself in need, come to the capital."

These words of assurance were extended sincerely, without any expectation of return.

Arrival at the Capital:

Much time passed before the villager found himself journeying to the capital, perhaps in remembrance of the monarch's promise. Upon arrival, he sought out the palace and discovered the king not amidst regal splendour or council, but rather seated humbly upon a prayer mat, engaged in solemn supplication.

The Question of Dependency:

Surprised by the scene, the villager posed a sincere and revealing question.

Villager:

"From whom are you asking, when you yourself are a king?"

The question carried a tone of astonishment and genuine curiosity.

The King's Confession:

The king responded with clarity and conviction.

King:

"I am asking from Allah, the Lord of all worlds."

The Villager's Realisation:

The response had a profound effect on the villagers. What followed was a declaration that distilled the wisdom of the encounter.

Villager:

"If you, being a king, are in need of Allah, then I too shall ask only from Him. I no longer have need to ask anything from you."